

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph 12 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 1 shows a schematic representation of a method of controlling expression of a gene using the nucleic acids of the present invention. In the figure, the transcriptional regulatory polypeptide is a repressor. Upon binding of the ligand to the aptamer, translation of the repressor, *i.e.*, mRNA, is blocked and the repression of the therapeutic gene is relieved.